

HIS
MAJESTIES
MOST GRACIOVS
DECLARATION,

Left by HIM on HIS Table at
Hampton-Court NOVEMBER,
11th, 1647.

*And directed to be Communicated to the
Speaker of the House of LORDS pro
tempore, and to be Communicated
unto the Lords and Commons in the
Parliament of England at Westmin-
ster, and the Commissioners of the Par-
liament of Scotland, and to all HIS
other Subjects of what degree or calling
whatsoever.*

LONDON Printed for Richard
Royston. 1647.

MAY 18 1862

RECEIVED

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 18 1862

1862

And directed to be placed in the



Special Agent in Charge

of the Bureau of Land Management

and of the General Land Office

of the Department of the Interior

of the United States of America

and of the General Land Office

of the Department of the Interior

of the United States of America

and of the General Land Office

of the Department of the Interior

of the United States of America

(1)



HIS MAJESTIES

MOST GRATIOVS
DECLARATION;

Left by Him on His Table at Hampton-
Court, November, 11. 1647.

C. R.



LIBERTY being
that, which in
all Times hath
been, but espec-
ially now is the
common Theam
and Desire of all
Men; Common
Reason shewes, That KINGS lesse
then

(2)

then any, should endure C A P T I.
V I T Y : And yet I call God and the
World to Witnesse, with what patience
I have endured a tedious Restraint :
which, so long as I had any hopes, that
this sort of my suffering, might conduce
to the Peace of My Kingdomes, or the
hindering of more effusion of Blood, I
did willingly undergoe: but now find-
ing by too certaine proofes, That
this My continued Patience, would
not onely turne to My Personall Ruine,
but likewise be of much more preju-
dice, then furtherance, to the Pub-
lique Good; I thought I was bound,
as well by Naturall, as Politicall Ob-
ligations to seek My safety, by Retiring
My Selfe, for some Time, from the
Publique View, both of My Friendes and
Enemies. And I Appeale to all indiffe-
rent Men, to judge, if I have not just
Cause, to free My Selfe from the hands of
those, who change their Principles with
their Condition, and who are not asham-
ed

ed openly to intend, the Destruction of the Nobility, by taking away their Negative Voyce; and with whom the Levelers Doctrine, is rather Countenanced then Punished; and as for their intentions to My Person, their changing and putting more strict Guardes upon Me, with the discharging most of althose Servants of Mine, who formerly they willingly admitted to waite upon Me, does sufficiently Declare. Nor would I have this My Retirement mis-interpreted; for I shall Earnestly, and Vncessantly endeavour, the settling of a safe and well-grounded Peace, whereever I am, or shall be; and that (as much as may be) without the Effusion of more Christian Blood; For which, how many times have I desired, preest to be heard? and yet, no Eare given to Me. And can any Reasonable Man thinke, that (according to the Ordinary Course of affaires) there can be a settled Peace without it? Or that God will Bless those, who Refuse to Heare their Owne KING:

(4)

Surely no: **Nay**, I must further adde, that (besides what Concernes My Selfe) unlesse all other chiefe Interests, have not only a Hearing, but likewise just satisfaction given unto them (to wit, The Presbyterians, Independants, Army, those who have Adhered to Me, and even the Scots) I say there cannot (I speake not of Miracles, it being in My Opinion, a Sinfull presumption, in such Cases, to expect, or trust to them) be a safe or lasting Peace. Now, as I cannot deny, but My Personall Security, is the Urgent Cause of this My Retirement; so I take God to Witnesse, that the Publique Peace is no lesse before My Eyes: And I can finde no better way to Express this My Profession, (I know not what a Wiser Man may doe then by desiring, and Urging, that all Chiefe Interests may be heard, to the end each may have just Satisfaction: As for Example, The Army, (for the Rest, though necessary, yet, I suppose are not difficult to content) ought (in my judgement) to enjoy the

(5)

the Libertie of their Consciences,
have an Act of Oblivion or Indemp-
nity, (Which should extend to all the Rest
of My Subjects) and that all their Arrears
should be speedily and duely paid: Which
I will undertake to doe, so I may be heard,
and that I be not hindered from using such
Lawfull and honest meanes, as I shall
chuse. To Conclude, let Me be heard
with Freedom, Honour, and Safety; and
I shall instantly break through this Cloud
of Retirement, and show My Selfe Real-
ly to be, *Pater Patria*.

Hampton-Court, 11 Novemb.

1647.

F I N I S.